

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W
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P 141422Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0829
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ICRC, CG
SUBJECT: RED CROSS (ICRC) REQUEST FOR U.S. INTERVENTION
WITH ZAIRE

1. DURING COURSE OF MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL FOR AFRICA (SCHMIDT) RAISED SUBJECT OF ICRC'S EFFORT TO HAVE ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS BEING DETAINED BY THE ZAIREAN GOVERNMENT IN THE WAKE OF THE FIGHTING IN SHABA. ACCORDING TO SCHMIDT, AND TO THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ICRC, THE GOZ IS HOLDING SOME 1,000 PEOPLE, PROBABLY AT THE KAMINA AIR BASE, OF WHOM SOME 150 ARE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE INVADING FORCES. ICRC EFFORTS THUS FAR TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REFUSED BY THE GOZ.

2. SCHMIDT FELT, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE ICRC, THAT THE INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT COULD BE MOST HELPFUL TOWARD ATTAINING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ICRC TO MEET WITH THESE DETAINEES. ACCORDINGLY, HE INQUIRED WHETHER THE MISSION MIGHT

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COMMUNICATE THIS DESIRE TO EMBASSY KINSHASA FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND, HOPEFULLY, ACTION. IN RESPONSE TO MISOFF'S QUESTION, SCHMIDT STATED THAT HE BELIEVED ICRC DELEGATE STEINEMANN, NOW IN KINSHASA, WAS PROBABLY IN CONTACT WITH OUR EMBASSY, AND MIGHT HAVE ALREADY RAISED THIS SUBJECT.

3. SCHMIDT FURTHER INDICATED THAT ICRC HAD ASKED FOR
SIMILAR ASSISTANCE, INDEPENDENTLY, FROM THE BRITISH AND
BELGIUM GOVERNMENTS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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